together holding 119.88 million kgs. of old stock as on 1.1.2002. It was in a bid to address the situation of over-supply in the market that a decision was taken to not register any growers in Andhra Pradesh in the 2000-2001 season or to fix any crop size in that State during that season.

(c) Following the untimely rains which caused damage to the standing FCV tobacco crop in two districts of Andhra Pradesh, the Tobacco Board has carried out a preliminary assessment of the damage sustained by the growers. The Board is engaged in an intensive campaign to educate the growers on measures to reduce the curing losses sustained as a result of this damage.

Impact of Bilateral Trade on Indian Economy

15. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the economic partnership agreements entered into with various countries for increasing bilateral trade since January, 2001; and

(b) the impact of such agreement on India's trade since signing of such agreements with various countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) India has entered into the agreements in the fields of trade, industry and economic co-operation with Botswana, Tazikistan and Iran during the year 2001. Bilateral Investment Protection Agreements have been signed with Mongolia, Croatia, Kuwait and Ukraine.

(b) the signing of such agreements would lead to enhanced co-operation between India and these countries in various fields like trade, investment, industry, services & tourism etc.